

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20
By McMillan

A RESOLUTION to extend the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 274 of the 103rd General Assembly to study the present alignment of trial court judicial districts and the allocation of judicial personnel in such districts.

WHEREAS, by House Joint Resolution No. 274 adopted in 2004, the General Assembly created a special joint committee to study the alignment of the present trial court judicial districts to determine if there exists a need to change the composition of such districts prior to the 2006 judicial elections; and

WHEREAS, since the trial court districts had not been systematically studied and reorganized since the Judicial Restructure Act which took effect on September 1, 1984, it was deemed appropriate that this system be reexamined to determine if changes were in order; and

WHEREAS, the joint committee met on four (4) separate occasions at which meetings it reviewed the historical evolution of judicial districts in Tennessee, took testimony from state and national experts in the area of courts and judicial redistricting and heard from numerous witnesses, both practicing attorneys and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the deliberations of the joint committee were interrupted prior to their completion by the primary elections in August of 2004 and the November 2004 general election; and

WHEREAS, although the joint committee was unable to comply with the November 1, 2004 reporting deadline because of these interruptions, it was the opinion of the joint committee that it could complete its work in an expeditious fashion in 2005 ; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 274 in

the 104th General Assembly to study the present alignment of trial court judicial districts and the allocation of judicial personnel in such districts be continued; that the membership of such special joint committee be composed of the same members as constituted the membership of the committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 274; and that the officers remain the same as the officers of the committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 274; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies provide assistance to the special joint committee upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the non-legislative members shall not receive compensation for serving on the committee but shall be reimbursed for attendance at meetings in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, by April 1, 2005, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.